

Message Text

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PAGE 01 CAIRO 09708 301150Z

20

ACTION EB-07

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 NEA-06 ISO-00 AID-05 CIAE-00 FRB-01

INR-05 NSAE-00 RSC-01 TRSE-00 XMB-02 OPIC-03 SP-02

CIEP-01 LAB-01 SIL-01 OMB-01 INT-05 STR-01 L-02 /057 W

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P R 301115Z NOV 74

FM AMEMBASSY CAIRO

TO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 548

INFO USDOC WASHDC

AMEMBASSY MOSCOW

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E.O. 11652: NA

TAGS: EG EMIN EGEN

SUBJECT: GOE SEEKS PURCHASE 350,000 TONS
COKING COAL

SUMMARY: MFA REQUESTED URGENT ASSISTANCE OF EMBASSY
IN ITS QUEST TO PURCHASE 350,000 TONS OF COKING COAL FOR
USE IN MEETING HELWAN STEEL PLANT NEEDS UNTIL FURTHER
SUPPLIES RECEIVED FROM USSR AND POLAND UNDER CY 75
PROTOCOLS. EMBASSY AGREED REPORT REQUEST AND SEEK
WHATEVER ASSISTANCE USG COULD PROVIDE IN THIS REGARD.
END SUMMARY.

1. UNDER INSTRUCTION FROM THE FONMIN, AMBASSADOR EL
TOHAMI, DIRECTOR OF MFA NORTH AMERICAN DIVISION,
ASKED DCM TO CALL NOV 30 TO RECEIVE GOE REQUEST FOR
ASSISTANCE IN OBTAINING 350,000 TONS OF COKING COAL.
TOHAMI SAID THAT COAL WAS NEEDED FOR HELWAN STEEL
PLANT TO HELP COVER NEEDS DURING NEXT SIX MONTHS. HE
REPORTED THAT ONE-THIRD SHORTFALL IN USSR AND POLISH
DELIVERIES CONTRACTED FOR THIS YER REQUIRED GOE
URGENTLY TO PURCHASE ADDITIONAL SUPPLIES. TOHAMI
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PAGE 02 CAIRO 09708 301150Z

INDICATED THAT HELWAN PLANT REQUIREMENTS FOR NEXT

YEAR WOULD REACH ONE AND ONE-HALF MILLION TONS. GOE HOPED THAT APPROXIMATELY ONE MILLION TONS COULD BE OBTAINED FROM USUAL USSR AND POLISH SUPPLIERS BUT SAID THAT REMAINDER WOULD HAVE TO BE PURCHASED ELSEWHERE.

2. CONTRARY TO EMBASSY EXPECTATION THAT GOE WOULD WANT TO OBTAIN COKING COAL UNDER PROJECTED AID PROGRAM, TOHAMI STATED THAT GOE PREPARED TO PAY FOR COAL IN DOLLARS.

3. WE OFFERED NO ENCOURAGEMENT THAT US COKING COAL AVAILABLE BECAUSE OF FACT THAT SUCH COAL PRESENTLY IN SHORT SUPPLY AND PRODUCERS ALREADY COMMITTED TO LONG TERM CONTRACTS. WE EXPLAINED THAT THIS SITUATION WAS FURTHER AGGRAVATED BY CURRENT US COAL MINERS STRIKE. HOWEVER, WE AGREED TO FORWARD GOE REQUEST FOR URGENT ATTENTION IN ORDER TO DETERMINE WHETHER ANY SUPPLIES OF US COKING COAL MIGHT BE AVAILABLE FOR EARLY DELIVERY TO MEET GOE NEEDS.

4. TOHAMI ALSO REQUESTED US ASSISTANCE IN INDICATING OTHER POSSIBLE SOURCES OF COKING COAL IF SUCH SUPPLIES WERE NOT AVAILABLE IN US. (WE SUGGESTED THAT SOME COAL MIGHT BE AVAILABLE FROM INDIA, BUT TOHAMI INDICATED THAT GOE DEFICIT UNDER ITS TRADE AGREEMENT WITH INDIA WOULD COMPLICATE PURCHASE FROM THAT SOURCE.)

5. ACTION REQUESTED: EMBASSY WOULD APPRECIATE PROMPT INQUIRY INTO THIS MATTER SO THAT WE MAY INFORM GOE EITHER OF POSSIBLE AVAILABLE SUPPLIES IN US OR QUICKLY DISABUSE THEM OF HOPES FOR SUCH SUPPLIES FROM THE US.
EILTS

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